

Field Lining/Marking

- Lining of City or NMUSD fields is prohibited without it being approved by City and noted on field permit. Line colors must be approved by City.
- Burning lines on the City or NMUSD fields is prohibited.
- Any user failing to comply with established guidelines and notification requests are subject to pay for all damages occurring to the facility and termination of field use permit.

d. Field and Facility Closures

Fields and facilities may be closed at the discretion of the Parks and Community Services Director and/or Maintenance Services Manager or their designated representatives. Closures are kept to a minimum when fields and facilities remain in a playable condition. Priority is given to maintenance needs, rest and renovation periods and sustainability for all fields, for both City and NMUSD fields. The City may close fields or facilities when the City engages in work involving any of the fields or facilities or when the health and safety of participants are threatened due to impending conditions, including but not limited to, rain, muddy conditions, smog alerts, maintenance issues, lightening and earthquakes.

e. Field Modifications

Any permanent modifications or improvements shall become the property of the City of NMUSD.

NMUSD Fields:

Once reviewed by City staff, requests to modify or improve any NMUSD facility will be submitted for review to the NMUSD. Please see NMUSD Site Modification Request Form (available in the Parks and Community Services Department). The field modification process will take a minimum of 6 to 8 weeks. No temporary or permanent structures or equipment shall be erected on City or NMUSD field or facility unless approved by the City and NMUSD. All projects, once completed, must be dedicated for public/community use. Submission of a request to modify or improve a site does not constitute approval. Approval will be given according to City and/or NMUSD policy. Approval will be provided in the form of a written document and will outline the scope of the project as approved.

City Fields:

Requests to modify, resize or add multiple-use fields, or make improvements to a City field shall be submitted with conceptual drawings to the City (Parks and Community Services Department) and may be reviewed by the Parks Maintenance Division and/or Planning Division, then presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a recommendation to City Council. City Council decision is final. Users may not modify a field that is being used by more than two organizations/teams without approval noted on request from each group president or without provision being made for use of another field(s) through the City. Fields modified for multiple use will be billed appropriate to use.

f. Inclement Weather Guidelines

City and NMUSD athletic fields have been designed and are maintained for the enjoyment and use of Costa Mesa residents. The purpose of this section is to guide the use of athletic fields, to prevent injuries

and damage to the playing surface brought upon by inclement weather and/or unsafe playing conditions. An effective field maintenance program is essential for safe, quality fields and sport complexes. User groups are asked to help by accepting and adhering to these rules. Groups who use the athletic facilities are expected to assist in protecting their participants and fields during periods of rain or inclement weather.

The City of Costa Mesa reserves the right to cancel or suspend field use permits when field conditions could result in injury to players or cause damage to the fields. Permits may also be canceled when the health and safety of participants are threatened due to impending conditions, including but not limited to, rain, muddy conditions, smog alerts, maintenance issues, lightening and earthquakes.

Procedure:

During inclement weather, the City's maintenance staff will assess the playability of all City-owned and NMUSD fields to determine if use will occur. The Parks and Community Services Director or designated representative shall have the authority to close any/all fields within the City of Costa Mesa.

Criteria for Establishing Field Playability:

The following information is the City's and NMUSD's policy regarding the use of fields in wet condition. These policies and procedures apply to all sports and activities conducted on a grass field, turf area, or infield:

Baseball and Softball In fields – Brick Dust

Infield will be deemed unsafe and unplayable when any of the following conditions are present:

- There is standing water within the base paths.
- Your feet slip as you walk through the infield.
- The depth of your footprint is greater than one inch.
- Any of the above conditions are present within the pitching area.

Soccer, Utility, Baseball and Softball Out Fields – Turf

Outfields and turf areas will be deemed unsafe and unplayable when any of the following conditions are present:

- There is standing water within the majority of a single playing position (playing positions will be determined based on the user group).
- Your feet suction to the ground as you walk within the majority of a single playing position (playing positions will be determined based on the user group).
- Your footprints fill with water in the majority of a single playing position.
- The depth of your footprint is greater than two inches in the majority of a single playing position.
- Grass can be easily dislodged from the fields during play.

The following procedures are to be followed regarding the use of fields when there has been rain, over-watering, or other serious conditions:

- If it has rained within the preceding 24 hours, groups scheduled to use public fields must call the Mudline at 714-754-5041. The Mudline is designed to relay same-day information regarding field closures and playability, except in the case of extreme conditions or scheduled maintenance. The Mudline message will be updated by 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday any by 7:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. City personnel will make determination of field conditions/closures, and the decisions are not negotiable.
- The City may declare a field subject to “re-inspect.” Re-inspect fields should be evaluated by the user group at practice/game time for playability. The user group must employ the playability criteria used by City staff and outlined above.
- In the event that the Mudline has not been updated or is unavailable, user groups are expected to make educated, responsible decisions regarding field condition playability. The groups should employ the playability criteria used by City staff (as outlined above) and take into consideration the current and future quality of the turf.
- Groups witnessing misuse of fields by other scheduled or unscheduled users are advised to contact the Costa Mesa Police Department at 714-754-5252.

Failure to follow these guidelines will result in cancellation of existing permit(s) and/or loss of rental/allocation privileges and/or a strike against the organization. NOTE: Fields will be inspected by City staff for misuse during inclement weather.

XII. Appeals Process

An appeal to the Parks and Community Services Director of a Parks and Community Services Director or staff decision must be submitted in writing with justification within ten (10) working days from the decision. The decision of the Parks and Community Services Director is final.

XIII. Other Information

a. Snack Bar and Barbeque Use

All organizations using fields or hosting an event utilizing a snack bar and/or barbeque must receive City approval and have same noted on use permit. Only Groups 1 and 2 will be granted approval for snack bar use; however, staff has discretion over approval of Groups 3-6 for snack bar use. Portable barbeques utilizing charcoal briquettes, or a similar type heat source may only be used at those City parks that have “hot coal” receptacles for disposal of used hot coals. These “hot coal” receptacles are clearly marked and are normally located near picnic shelters or picnic areas. Portable barbeques using hot coals should only be used in close proximity to “hot coal” receptacles for ease of disposal.

Personal, portable BBQs utilizing propane or similar type gas canisters for the fuel source are allowed in all developed, passive areas of all City parks, with the following exceptions:

1. Within one hundred feet (100') of undeveloped or brush areas
2. Within fifty feet (50') of residential properties
3. On or within ten feet (10') of any walkways or travel ways